



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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Date: June 14, 2006
Release Number TX 246.06

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“NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH – OWN YOUR FUTURE”

RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS, June 14, 2006- Owning a home helps to give families security and a sense of pride, and it is an important part of the American way of life. Nearly 70 percent of all Americans now enjoy the satisfaction of owning their own homes. USDA Rural Development is proud to have had the opportunity to assist almost 250,000 Americans achieve their homeownership dream since the start of the Bush Administration.

“USDA Rural Development has a long history of assisting rural citizens to achieve and maintain the dream of homeownership. It is with great pride that we join President Bush in celebrating June 2006 as Homeownership Month,” said Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director in Texas.

The Rio Grande City Local Office, on June 14, 2006, will join the Starr County Self-Help Center and the Community Action Council of South Texas in presenting certificates to several families assisted through the Housing Preservation Grant administered by the Starr County Self-Help Center, Weatherization Program administered by the Community Action Council of South Texas (CACST), and 504/306C Repair Grants administered by the Rio Grande City USDA Rural Development Office.

USDA Rural Development faces the challenge of finding innovative ways to assist families of low and very low incomes with much needed housing repairs. We are achieving this goal with programs such as the Housing Preservation Grant, which assists nonprofit organizations, public bodies, and Native American Tribes in the renovation of deteriorating homes. Home Repair Loan and Grant Programs provide funding for repairs to improve or modernize a home, to make it safer or more sanitary, or to remove health hazards. For applicants 62 and older who cannot afford a loan, grant funds are available. The 306C Program is to assist families living in colonias, in existence since October 1989, with water and sewer connections and for repairs to plumbing.

Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$23 billion in the American Dream of homeownership. If you would like to find out more about one of our Housing Programs, contact the Rio Grande City Local Office at (956) 487-5576, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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